

RURAL SERVICE.

Postal Authorities Give That Branch Considerable Attention.

EXTENSION OF FREE DELIVERY

Policy of the Administration to Establish Offices Where it Will Accommodate a Reasonable Number of People—Some Interesting Figures Connected With the System in West Virginia.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 13.—The annual report of the fourth assistant postmaster general, just made public, gives some interesting statistics concerning the postal service of the country, especially of that branch which comes closest to the rural districts—the fourth class officers. Owing to the fact, the report says, that most of the appointments of fourth class postmasters had been made the preceding year, the office was enabled to give its attention more closely to disciplinary measures and the improvement of the service.

It has been the policy of the bureau, it is stated, since the beginning of the present administration, to establish a postoffice wherever it is shown that it will accommodate a reasonable number of people, it being the purpose to give the people the most convenient mail facilities possible. The extension of rural free delivery service throughout the country, according to the report, resulted in the course of the year, in the discontinuance of eighty postoffices. Upon the urgent request of the respective patrons, a number of these offices were re-established, and many other requests for re-establishment were on file, not acted upon, at the close of the year.

In the tabular statistics accompanying the report it is shown, among other things, that in West Virginia five commissions of postmasters of the presidential class expired during the year; one postmaster died, and there were four offices raised to the presidential class. There was a total of 176 resignations, forty-eight removals at expiration of four years, fourteen removals for other reasons, and twenty-seven deaths; seventy-one postoffices in the same class established and forty discontinued.

There are in the state one postoffice of the first class, ten of the second class, and twenty-seven third class, a total of thirty-eight, as against thirty-three at the close of the preceding fiscal year. Of the fourth class offices in West Virginia, 216 are rated as money order offices; seven limited money order, and 1,628 non-money order, a total of 1835. This is an increase over 1898 of twenty-six. West Virginia ranks thirty-eighth in the list of states in the number of presidential postoffices, the estimated population of the state being 1,000,000. The rank of the state in the number of fourth class postoffices is fifteenth and the rank in the compensation of fourth class postmasters is forty-two, the average of salaries being \$114.78. The average in Pennsylvania was \$117.95; in Ohio, \$113.47. The gross receipts of postoffices in West Virginia was \$539,593.87; the average amount expended per capita, .64. In Pennsylvania, where the receipts were \$518,973.77, the per capita expenditure was \$1.55; in Ohio, gross receipts \$5,608,982.11, and average expenditure per capita, \$1.17. West Virginia ranks seventeenth in the total number of postoffices.

A table is given, showing the number of postoffices in the United States at the close of each year, with the exception of 1812, since 1790, when there were but seventy-five. The present number is 75,000. With the exception of a slight decline in 1842, there was a steady increase down to the year 1859. The war then came on and disorganized affairs and upset statistics, but from 1870 to the present time the increase has been regular and rapid.

Speaking of the bonds required of postmasters, the report states that the act of Congress approved in August, 1894, giving authority to the department to accept bonds executed by surety and trust companies, has had but a limited application to postoffices. The postal laws and regulations require that every postmaster's bond shall be executed by not less than two sureties, and it has been required that one, if no more, of the sureties shall be a patron of the office for which bond is given. The bonds of surety and trust companies have been accepted in presidential cases of the first and second class, respectively, for one-half the amount, provided the company offered was incorporated under the laws of the state in which the office was located. Such sureties, however, are not accepted in the case of third and fourth class offices.

The penalties of the bonds approved during the year aggregated \$40,069,000. The losses from insufficient bonds amounted to \$19,505.66. Postmasters collected and turned into the treasury during the year a total of \$35,021,334.17, showing the percentage of loss to be but one-fifth of one per cent.

The number of postmasters reported the past fiscal year for infirmities or delinquencies was 423; number the preceding year, 331. Number of notices sent to sureties of violations of regulations by postmasters in failing to properly make returns in the past year, 1,101; the previous year, 2,562, showing a decided improvement.

The report embraces at the close the following recommendations:

That provision be made for the payment of incidental expenses incurred by local officers or others in the arrest, detention, and keeping of prisoners charged with violations of the

postal laws until such prisoners can be transferred to the custody of a United States marshal.

That a statute be enacted authorizing postoffice inspectors to take out search warrants whenever the same may be necessary in the prosecution of their official duties.

That an appropriation be made for the purpose of constructing lookouts wherever, in the opinion of the postmaster general, the same may be needed.

That the inter-state commerce law be amended to prohibit common carriers to wit telegraph and express companies—or any of their employees from aiding and abetting in the green-goods or lottery swindles or any other scheme carried on partly by mail and partly by common carrier, and which is in violation of the postal laws.

That, owing to the losses and delays which are constantly occurring on account of small pieces of mail matter slipping in large unsealed envelopes, the loose pouching of such unsealed envelopes containing circulars, calendars, etc., be prohibited.

That a newspaper wrapper of a larger size than the one now issued be provided.

Schooner Captain Killed.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Nov. 12.—The captain of the schooner J. B. Van Dusen, of New York, was killed by one of the crew Saturday night, near Point Lepreaux. While the body was being landed by the mate and one of the crew the schooner sailed away.

WHAT'S a table thought nicely spread without Cooks' Imperial Extra Dry Champagne is at its head.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

The Features of the Money and Stock Markets.

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.—Money on call firm at 4 1/2 per cent; last loan 4 per cent; ruling at 5 1/2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5 1/2 per cent. Sterling exchange weak, with actual business in bankers' bills at \$4.85 1/2 for sixty days; posted rates at \$4.81 1/2 and \$4.86 1/4 for 90 days. Commercial bills \$4.80. Silver certificates 59 1/2 per cent. Bar silver 59c. Mexican dollars 47 1/2c.

Government bonds irregular.

State bonds inactive.

Railroad bonds irregular.

The stock market showed a short-lived hesitation after the opening this morning and then turned upward. There was no important backset for the rest of the day and the market closed quiet and firm at about the top level and at an average of prices a point or more above that of Saturday. The early hesitation was caused by the general opinion that the increased deficit banks surplus reserve as shown by the statement Saturday would necessitate a large loan contraction. There was a large demand for money during the day and it became manifest early that there was an abundant supply. The bears who sold stocks Saturday in anticipation of forced liquidation began promptly to-day to buy to cover their short contracts. This was a considerable element in the day's strength. So also was the buying for London account which reached as high as 50,000 shares. This buying besides its direct effect had a sentimental influence as indicating a reserve force in that market against possible withdrawals of gold for shipment to New York. The course of the foreign exchange market during the day gave color to the conviction in speculative circles that gold imports are near at hand. The tone of the exchange market during the day was characterized as demoralized. Demand sterling exchange was sold at one time during the day at a concession below 45s. At that rate it is believed that a small loss would be involved in the importation of gold. But it was the belief on the stock exchange that such an importation would be undertaken for the sentimental effect on the securities market. The exchange market steadied somewhat with the late fall in the money rate. The limited calling of loans made it manifest that the contraction of credits on last Friday had placed the banks in a better position than was fully reflected in the weekly bank statement. Large loans were made on account of the local trust companies and the rate was forced down from the opening at 12 per cent to 5 per cent. There was some relief to the money market from a receipt of over \$1,000,000 gold from Cuba and several hundred thousand dollars to the assay office on account of the gold deposited at interior points. Outside financial institutions are said to be placing loans on a large scale in the stock market. A suggestion of possible sources of relief for local borrowers aside from the banks is found in the last balance sheet of the Manhattan Railway Company, where the item of loans on call for September 30, 1899, had expanded over \$13,000,000, compared with the year before. The fact that the general course of prices of stocks during the past six weeks has been upward, while the New York banks have been steadily contracting their credits indicates that borrowers must have had other sources of supply on which they have freely drawn. A feature of to-day's money market was the enlarged demand in the stock at a time for a loan, which were firmly held at 6 per cent.

Prices of bonds did not fully respond to the strength in stocks, but there were sharp rallies in some issues that showed early weakness. Total sales par value, \$1,558,000.

United States old 4s registered advanced 1/4, and the 3s 1/2 per cent in the bid price. The 5s declined 1/4 per cent.

D. S. Bonds.

U. S. 2s reg. 119 1/2, U. S. old 4s reg. 119 1/2, U. S. 3s reg. 119 1/2, U. S. 5s reg. 119 1/2, U. S. new 4s reg. 119 1/2, U. S. coupon, 119 1/2, U. S. new 4s reg. 119 1/2.

Stocks.

Aetna 22 1/2, Mo. Pacific 47 1/2, do preferred 75, Mobile & Ohio 4 1/2, Balt. & Ohio 10 1/2, Kan. & W. 12 1/2, Can. Pacific 94 1/2, do preferred 124 1/2, Can. Southern 53, N. Y. Central 123 1/2, Ches. & Ohio 25 1/2, N. Y. Central 123 1/2, Chicago & W. 115 1/2, Norfolk & W. 37 1/2, Chi. & Q. 122 1/2, do preferred 74 1/2, Chi. Ind. & Loo. 11 Northern Pac. 74 1/2, do preferred 42, do preferred 42, C. & St. L. 115 1/2, Ore. Ry. & N. 42 1/2, C. C. & St. L. 115 1/2, Penn. 123 1/2, Col. Southern 60, Reading 60 1/2, do 1st pref. 60 1/2, do 2d pref. 58 1/2, Del. & Hudson 120 1/2, Rio G. West 27 1/2, Del. Lack. & W. 28 1/2, do preferred 58 1/2, Denver & R. G. 21 1/2, St. L. & San F. 10 1/2.

Articles.

Wheat, No. 2, 65 1/2, 67 1/2, 69 1/2, 71 1/2, 73 1/2, 75 1/2, 77 1/2, 79 1/2, 81 1/2, 83 1/2, 85 1/2, 87 1/2, 89 1/2, 91 1/2, 93 1/2, 95 1/2, 97 1/2, 99 1/2, 101 1/2, 103 1/2, 105 1/2, 107 1/2, 109 1/2, 111 1/2, 113 1/2, 115 1/2, 117 1/2, 119 1/2, 121 1/2, 123 1/2, 125 1/2, 127 1/2, 129 1/2, 131 1/2, 133 1/2, 135 1/2, 137 1/2, 139 1/2, 141 1/2, 143 1/2, 145 1/2, 147 1/2, 149 1/2, 151 1/2, 153 1/2, 155 1/2, 157 1/2, 159 1/2, 161 1/2, 163 1/2, 165 1/2, 167 1/2, 169 1/2, 171 1/2, 173 1/2, 175 1/2, 177 1/2, 179 1/2, 181 1/2, 183 1/2, 185 1/2, 187 1/2, 189 1/2, 191 1/2, 193 1/2, 195 1/2, 197 1/2, 199 1/2, 201 1/2, 203 1/2, 205 1/2, 207 1/2, 209 1/2, 211 1/2, 213 1/2, 215 1/2, 217 1/2, 219 1/2, 221 1/2, 223 1/2, 225 1/2, 227 1/2, 229 1/2, 231 1/2, 233 1/2, 235 1/2, 237 1/2, 239 1/2, 241 1/2, 243 1/2, 245 1/2, 247 1/2, 249 1/2, 251 1/2, 253 1/2, 255 1/2, 257 1/2, 259 1/2, 261 1/2, 263 1/2, 265 1/2, 267 1/2, 269 1/2, 271 1/2, 273 1/2, 275 1/2, 277 1/2, 279 1/2, 281 1/2, 283 1/2, 285 1/2, 287 1/2, 289 1/2, 291 1/2, 293 1/2, 295 1/2, 297 1/2, 299 1/2, 301 1/2, 303 1/2, 305 1/2, 307 1/2, 309 1/2, 311 1/2, 313 1/2, 315 1/2, 317 1/2, 319 1/2, 321 1/2, 323 1/2, 325 1/2, 327 1/2, 329 1/2, 331 1/2, 333 1/2, 335 1/2, 337 1/2, 339 1/2, 341 1/2, 343 1/2, 345 1/2, 347 1/2, 349 1/2, 351 1/2, 353 1/2, 355 1/2, 357 1/2, 359 1/2, 361 1/2, 363 1/2, 365 1/2, 367 1/2, 369 1/2, 371 1/2, 373 1/2, 375 1/2, 377 1/2, 379 1/2, 381 1/2, 383 1/2, 385 1/2, 387 1/2, 389 1/2, 391 1/2, 393 1/2, 395 1/2, 397 1/2, 399 1/2, 401 1/2, 403 1/2, 405 1/2, 407 1/2, 409 1/2, 411 1/2, 413 1/2, 415 1/2, 417 1/2, 419 1/2, 421 1/2, 423 1/2, 425 1/2, 427 1/2, 429 1/2, 431 1/2, 433 1/2, 435 1/2, 437 1/2, 439 1/2, 441 1/2, 443 1/2, 445 1/2, 447 1/2, 449 1/2, 451 1/2, 453 1/2, 455 1/2, 457 1/2, 459 1/2, 461 1/2, 463 1/2, 465 1/2, 467 1/2, 469 1/2, 471 1/2, 473 1/2, 475 1/2, 477 1/2, 479 1/2, 481 1/2, 483 1/2, 485 1/2, 487 1/2, 489 1/2, 491 1/2, 493 1/2, 495 1/2, 497 1/2, 499 1/2, 501 1/2, 503 1/2, 505 1/2, 507 1/2, 509 1/2, 511 1/2, 513 1/2, 515 1/2, 517 1/2, 519 1/2, 521 1/2, 523 1/2, 525 1/2, 527 1/2, 529 1/2, 531 1/2, 533 1/2, 535 1/2, 537 1/2, 539 1/2, 541 1/2, 543 1/2, 545 1/2, 547 1/2, 549 1/2, 551 1/2, 553 1/2, 555 1/2, 557 1/2, 559 1/2, 561 1/2, 563 1/2, 565 1/2, 567 1/2, 569 1/2, 571 1/2, 573 1/2, 575 1/2, 577 1/2, 579 1/2, 581 1/2, 583 1/2, 585 1/2, 587 1/2, 589 1/2, 591 1/2, 593 1/2, 595 1/2, 597 1/2, 599 1/2, 601 1/2, 603 1/2, 605 1/2, 607 1/2, 609 1/2, 611 1/2, 613 1/2, 615 1/2, 617 1/2, 619 1/2, 621 1/2, 623 1/2, 625 1/2, 627 1/2, 629 1/2, 631 1/2, 633 1/2, 635 1/2, 637 1/2, 639 1/2, 641 1/2, 643 1/2, 645 1/2, 647 1/2, 649 1/2, 651 1/2, 653 1/2, 655 1/2, 657 1/2, 659 1/2, 661 1/2, 663 1/2, 665 1/2, 667 1/2, 669 1/2, 671 1/2, 673 1/2, 675 1/2, 677 1/2, 679 1/2, 681 1/2, 683 1/2, 685 1/2, 687 1/2, 689 1/2, 691 1/2, 693 1/2, 695 1/2, 697 1/2, 699 1/2, 701 1/2, 703 1/2, 705 1/2, 707 1/2, 709 1/2, 711 1/2, 713 1/2, 715 1/2, 717 1/2, 719 1/2, 721 1/2, 723 1/2, 725 1/2, 727 1/2, 729 1/2, 731 1/2, 733 1/2, 735 1/2, 737 1/2, 739 1/2, 741 1/2, 743 1/2, 745 1/2, 747 1/2, 749 1/2, 751 1/2, 753 1/2, 755 1/2, 757 1/2, 759 1/2, 761 1/2, 763 1/2, 765 1/2, 767 1/2, 769 1/2, 771 1/2, 773 1/2, 775 1/2, 777 1/2, 779 1/2, 781 1/2, 783 1/2, 785 1/2, 787 1/2, 789 1/2, 791 1/2, 793 1/2, 795 1/2, 797 1/2, 799 1/2, 801 1/2, 803 1/2, 805 1/2, 807 1/2, 809 1/2, 811 1/2, 813 1/2, 815 1/2, 817 1/2, 819 1/2, 821 1/2, 823 1/2, 825 1/2, 827 1/2, 829 1/2, 831 1/2, 833 1/2, 835 1/2, 837 1/2, 839 1/2, 841 1/2, 843 1/2, 845 1/2, 847 1/2, 849 1/2, 851 1/2, 853 1/2, 855 1/2, 857 1/2, 859 1/2, 861 1/2, 863 1/2, 865 1/2, 867 1/2, 869 1/2, 871 1/2, 873 1/2, 875 1/2, 877 1/2, 879 1/2, 881 1/2, 883 1/2, 885 1/2, 887 1/2, 889 1/2, 891 1/2, 893 1/2, 895 1/2, 897 1/2, 899 1/2, 901 1/2, 903 1/2, 905 1/2, 907 1/2, 909 1/2, 911 1/2, 913 1/2, 915 1/2, 917 1/2, 919 1/2, 921 1/2, 923 1/2, 925 1/2, 927 1/2, 929 1/2, 931 1/2, 933 1/2, 935 1/2, 937 1/2, 939 1/2, 941 1/2, 943 1/2, 945 1/2, 947 1/2, 949 1/2, 951 1/2, 953 1/2, 955 1/2, 957 1/2, 959 1/2, 961 1/2, 963 1/2, 965 1/2, 967 1/2, 969 1/2, 971 1/2, 973 1/2, 975 1/2, 977 1/2, 979 1/2, 981 1/2, 983 1/2, 985 1/2, 987 1/2, 989 1/2, 991 1/2, 993 1/2, 995 1/2, 997 1/2, 999 1/2.

do preferred 12 1/2, do 1st pref. 10 1/2, do 2d pref. 8 1/2, do 3d pref. 6 1/2, do 4th pref. 4 1/2, do 5th pref. 2 1/2, do 6th pref. 1 1/2, do 7th pref. 1/2, do 8th pref. 1/4, do 9th pref. 1/8, do 10th pref. 1/16, do 11th pref. 1/32, do 12th pref. 1/64, do 13th pref. 1/128, do 14th pref. 1/256, do 15th pref. 1/512, do 16th pref. 1/1024, do 17th pref. 1/2048, do 18th pref. 1/4096, do 19th pref. 1/8192, do 20th pref. 1/16384, do 21st pref. 1/32768, do 22nd pref. 1/65536, do 23rd pref. 1/131072, do 24th pref. 1/262144, do 25th pref. 1/524288, do 26th pref. 1/1048576, do 27th pref. 1/2097152, do 28th pref. 1/4194304, do 29th pref. 1/8388608, do 30th pref. 1/16777216, do 31st pref. 1/33554432, do 32nd pref. 1/67108864, do 33rd pref. 1/134217728, do 34th pref. 1/268435456, do 35th pref. 1/536870912, do 36th pref. 1/1073741824, do 37th pref. 1/2147483648, do 38th pref. 1/4294967296, do 39th pref. 1/8589934592, do 40th pref. 1/17179869184, do 41st pref. 1/34359738368, do 42nd pref. 1/68719476736, do 43rd pref. 1/137438953472, do 44th pref. 1/274877906944, do 45th pref. 1/549755813888, do 46th pref. 1/1099511627776, do 47th pref. 1/2199023255552, do 48th pref. 1/4398046511104, do 49th pref. 1/8796093022208, do 50th pref. 1/17592186044416, do 51st pref. 1/35184372088832, do 52nd pref. 1/70368744177664, do 53rd pref. 1/140737488355328, do 54th pref. 1/281474976710656, do 55th pref. 1/562949953421312, do 56th pref. 1/1125899906842624, do 57th pref. 1/2251799813685248, do 58th pref. 1/4503599627370496, do 59th pref. 1/9007199254740992, do 60th pref. 1/18014398509481984, do 61st pref. 1/36028797018963968, do 62nd pref. 1/72057594037927936, do 63rd pref. 1/144115188075855872, do 64th pref. 1/288230376151711744, do 65th pref. 1/576460752303423488, do 66th pref. 1/1152921504606846976, do 67th pref. 1/2305843009213693952, do 68th pref. 1/4611686018427387904, do 69th pref. 1/9223372036854775808, do 70th pref. 1/18446744073709551616, do 71st pref. 1/36893488147419103232, do 72nd pref. 1/73786976294838206464, do 73rd pref. 1/147573952589676412928, do 74th pref. 1/295147905179352825856, do 75th pref. 1/590295810358705651712, do 76th pref. 1/1180591620717411303424, do 77th pref. 1/2361183241434822606848, do 78th pref. 1/4722366482869645213696, do 79th pref. 1/9444732965739290427392, do 80th pref. 1/18889465931478580854784, do 81st pref. 1/37778931862957161709568, do 82nd pref. 1/75557863725914323419136, do 83rd pref. 1/151115727451828646838272, do 84th pref. 1/302231454903657293676544, do 85th pref. 1/604462909807314587353088, do 86th pref. 1/1208925819614629174706176, do 87th pref. 1/2417851639229258349412352, do 88th pref. 1/4835703278458516698824704, do 89th pref. 1/9671406556917033397649408, do 90th pref. 1/19342813113834066795298816, do 91st pref. 1/38685626227668133590597632, do 92nd pref. 1/77371252455336267181195264, do 93rd pref. 1/154742504910672534362390528, do 94th pref. 1/309485009821345068724781056, do 95th pref. 1/618970019642690137449562112, do 96th pref. 1/1237940039285380274899124224, do 97th pref. 1/2475880078570760549798248448, do 98th pref. 1/4951760157141521099596496896, do 99th pref. 1/9903520314283042199192993792, do 100th pref. 1/19807040628566084398385987584.

Express Companies.

Adams 113, United States 45, American 148, Wells Fargo 127.

Miscellaneous.

Am. Cotton Oil 4 1/2, Nat. Biscuit 4 1/2, do preferred 10 1/2, do 1st pref. 8 1/2, do 2d pref. 6 1/2, do 3d pref. 4 1/2, do 4th pref. 2 1/2, do 5th pref. 1 1/2, do 6th pref. 1/2, do 7th pref. 1/4, do 8th pref. 1/8, do 9th pref. 1/16, do 10th pref. 1/32, do 11th pref. 1/64, do 12th pref. 1/128, do 13th pref. 1/256, do 14th pref. 1/512, do 15th pref. 1/1024, do 16th pref. 1/2048, do 17th pref. 1/4096, do 18th pref. 1/8192, do 19th pref. 1/16384, do 20th pref. 1/32768, do 21st pref. 1/65536, do 22nd pref. 1/131072, do 23rd pref. 1/262144, do 24th pref. 1/524288, do 25th pref. 1/1048576, do 26th pref. 1/2097152, do 27th pref. 1/4194304, do 28th pref. 1/8388608, do 29th pref. 1/16777216, do 30th pref. 1/33554432, do 31st pref. 1/67108864, do 32nd pref. 1/134217728, do 33rd pref. 1/268435456, do 34th pref. 1/536870912, do 35th pref. 1/1073741824, do 36th pref. 1/2147483648, do 37th pref. 1/4294967296, do 38th pref. 1/8589934592, do 39th pref. 1/17179869184, do 40th pref. 1/34359738368, do 41st pref. 1/68719476736, do 42nd pref. 1/137438953472, do 43rd pref. 1/274877906944, do 44th pref. 1/549755813888, do 45th pref. 1/1099511627776, do 46th pref. 1/2199023255552, do 47th pref. 1/4398046511104, do 48th pref. 1/8796093022208, do 49th pref. 1/17592186044416, do 50th pref. 1/35184372088832, do 51st pref. 1/70368744177664, do 52nd pref. 1/140737488355328, do 53rd pref. 1/281474976710656, do 54th pref. 1/562949953421312, do 55th pref. 1/1125899906842624, do 56th pref. 1/2251799813685248, do 57th pref. 1/4503599627370496, do 58th pref. 1/9007199254740992, do 59th pref. 1